



DomF
16.5
7/12/00

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N. Monroe, Suite 202 • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509) 456-2926

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Final Environmental Impact Statement
Proposed Pend Oreille Mine
Pend Oreille County, Washington**

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the proposed Pend Oreille Mine near Metaline Falls, Washington. The Final EIS was prepared in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21 RCW and Chapter 197-11 WAC).

Description of the Proposal

Cominco American Incorporated (Cominco) has proposed to reopen the former Pend Oreille Mine, located two miles north of Metaline Falls in northern Pend Oreille County, Washington. Ore-bearing rock would be extracted from underground mine workings and transported to the surface via an existing conveyor system that would be refurbished prior to mining. Zinc and lead concentrates would be recovered at an existing on-site mill that would be refitted before mining begins. The metal-bearing concentrates would be shipped in trucks to Cominco's smelter in Trail, British Columbia for ore processing. Waste tailings would be disposed on site in a double-lined landfill.

Because the proposed Pend Oreille Mine would be located at the site of the former mine, most of the surface infrastructure required to support the mining operation has already been constructed. Existing structures include a mine portal, a mine ventilation shaft, two mill buildings, a mine office building, an assay laboratory, a maintenance shop, a fuel and oil storage facility, a waste rock disposal area, three tailings disposal facilities, and access roads. The proposed project would require construction of two additional mine ventilation shafts and some additional roads, and the expansion of one of the existing tailings disposal facilities. Approximately 100 acres of new land would be disturbed if the mine were reopened as proposed.

Environmental Impact Statement

The proposed project is subject to the requirements of the Washington *Metals Mining and Milling Operations Act* (Chapter 78.56 RCW), which requires that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared. The EIS must meet all applicable SEPA requirements.

Ecology hired ENSR Corporation, an environmental consulting firm, to prepare the Pend Oreille Mine EIS. Beginning in August 1998, ENSR staff and subcontractors collected the existing background data for the Pend Oreille Mine project and identified data gaps that needed to be filled before the EIS could be completed. Consultants working directly for Cominco collected additional information required to fill the data gaps. ENSR staff then synthesized the data and prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS).

Ecology issued the Draft EIS on February 24, 2000. The public comment period began on February 24 and was originally scheduled to close on March 24, but was later extended until April 7, 2000. Copies of the Draft EIS were available for public viewing at Ecology's Eastern Regional Office in Spokane and at

USEPA SF



1449316



public libraries in Metaline Falls, Newport, Colville, Republic, and Tonasket, Washington. Supporting technical documents were also available for viewing at Ecology's Spokane office and at the Metaline Falls and Newport public libraries.

Ecology held a public hearing on the Draft EIS in Metaline Falls on March 15, 2000. Approximately 75 people attended. Ecology staff discussed the proposed project and the contents of the Draft EIS, answered questions related to the project, and accepted public testimony on the Draft EIS. Eight individuals provided public testimony.

Ecology received 208 written and oral responses on the Draft EIS from individuals, organizations, and governmental agencies, which contained 519 catalogued individual comments. Ecology and ENSR reviewed and evaluated all the comments, and incorporated the substantive comments into a revision of the Draft EIS, which will be issued as the Final EIS for the proposed Pend Oreille Mine project.

The Final EIS for the proposed Pend Oreille Mine project evaluates the probable environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed mining and milling activities, and analyzes possible mitigation measures. It also examines reasonable alternatives, including the "No Action" alternative, to Cominco's proposal.

In support of the Final EIS, Ecology has also issued a separate technical document entitled *"Review Comments and Responses - Draft Environmental Impact Statement"*. This document contains a summary of all public comments received on the Draft EIS and Ecology's summary responses to the comments, as well as individual responses to each comment received. A summary of the Draft EIS review comments and responses is also included as an appendix in the Final EIS.

EIS Repositories

The Final EIS and the Draft EIS *"Review Comments and Responses..."* document for the proposed Pend Oreille Mine project are available for inspection at the following locations:

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 North Monroe, Suite 202
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 456-2926

Department of Ecology
Ecology Headquarters Building
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 407-6000

Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3401
(509) 575-2490

Metaline Falls Public Library
Cutter Theatre Building
302 Park Street
Metaline Falls, WA 99153
(509) 446-3232

Newport Public Library
116 South Washington
Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-2111

Colville Public Library
195 South Oak Street
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-6620

Republic Public Library
P.O. Box 601
Republic, WA 99166
(509) 775-3328

Tonasket Public Library
209 South Whitcomb Avenue
Tonasket, WA 98855
(509) 486-2366

Supporting technical documents for the EIS are also available for inspection at Ecology's Spokane office and the public libraries in Metaline Falls and Newport, Washington.

Waiting Period

SEPA rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC) require Ecology and other state and local governmental agencies to wait seven days after issuance of the Final EIS before any formal decisions on the proposed project can be made. After the waiting period has ended, Ecology plans to begin making permit decisions on the proposed Pend Oreille Mine project.

Additional Information

For additional information on the proposed Pend Oreille Mine project, please contact:

Mr. Keith Stoffel
Pend Oreille Mine Project Coordinator
Washington Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 North Monroe, Suite 202
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Phone: (509) 456-3176
Fax: (509) 456-6175
Email: ksto461@ecy.wa.gov



Anthony W. Grover
Regional Director
Eastern Regional Office

7/12/2000
Publication Date



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N. Monroe, Suite 202 • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509) 456-2926

FACT SHEET

Project: Pend Oreille Mine
Pend Oreille County, Washington

Project Description: Reopening and operation of an underground zinc and lead mine located in Sections 10, 11, 14, and 15, Township 39 North, Range 43 East. The site is located 2 miles north of Metaline Falls, Washington.

Project Summary: Ore-bearing rock would be extracted from underground mine workings and transported to the surface via an existing conveyor system that would be refurbished prior to mining. Zinc and lead concentrates would be recovered at an existing on-site mill that would be refitted before mining begins. The metal-bearing concentrates would be shipped in trucks to Cominco's smelter in Trail, British Columbia for ore processing. Waste tailings would be disposed on-site in a double-lined landfill.

Proponent: Cominco American Incorporated
15918 East Euclid Avenue
Spokane, WA 99216

Issue Date of Final EIS: July 12, 2000

Date of Final Actions: No permit decision dates established at this time

Lead Agency Responsible Official: Mr. Anthony Grover
Regional Director
Eastern Regional Office
Department of Ecology
4601 North Monroe Street, Suite 202
Spokane, Washington 99205-1295

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mr. Keith Stoffel
Pend Oreille Mine Project Coordinator
Department of Ecology
4601 North Monroe Street, Suite 202
Spokane, Washington 99205-1295
Phone: (509) 456-3176
Fax: (509) 456-6175
Email: ksto461@ecy.wa.gov



**Principal Coordinator
of EIS Preparation:**

Mr. Stuart Paulus, ENSR Corporation

**Principal Contributors
of EIS Preparation:**

Ms. Kim Anderson, wetlands/vegetation/wildlife
Mr. Gene Andrews, surface and groundwater quality
Mr. Robert Berry, surface and groundwater quality
Ms. Alissa Boyce, wetlands/vegetation/wildlife
Ms. Melanie Carpenter, geology/soils
Mr. Gary Carter, air quality and noise
Mr. Allan Chartrand, human and wildlife health
Ms. Nancy Chin, surface and groundwater quality
Mr. Edward Connor, fisheries
Mr. Curtis Degasperi, surface and groundwater quality
Ms. Deborah Eley, socioeconomics
Mr. Steve Fischer, transportation and traffic studies
Ms. Randa Gahin, socioeconomics
Mr. Robert Irving, mine engineering
Mr. Leonard Joeris, geochemistry
Mr. Tarang Khangaonkar, surface and groundwater quality
Ms. Laurie Kline, public involvement
Ms. Lynn Larson, archaeological/historical/cultural resources
Mr. Ken Lepic, hazardous materials
Ms. Ronda Little, wildlife/vegetation habitat
Mr. George Maddox, surface and groundwater resources
Mr. Michael Madsen, archaeological/historical/cultural resources
Mr. Ken Mongar, graphic/CAD
Mr. Stuart Paulus, wetlands/wildlife/vegetation
Mr. Randall Rasmussen, socioeconomics/transportation/land use
Mr. Joseph Sanders, noise
Mr. Bradley Strauch, soils/wildlife/vegetation
Mr. Jim Thornton, SEPA coordinator
Mr. James Wilder, air quality and noise assessment
Ms. Karen Worcester, public involvement

**Cost to Public for
Copy of Final EIS:**

Approximately \$75

**Repositories for Final EIS
And Draft EIS
Review Comments and Responses:**

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 North Monroe Street, Suite 202
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 456-2926

Department of Ecology
Ecology Headquarters Building
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 407-6000

Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3401
(509) 575-2490

Metaline Falls Public Library
Cutter Theatre Building
302 Park Street
Metaline Falls, WA 99153
(509) 446-3232

Newport Public Library
116 South Washington
Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-2111

Colville Public Library
195 South Oak Street
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-6620

Republic Public Library
P.O. Box 601
Republic, WA 99166
(509) 775-3328

Tonasket Public Library
209 South Whitcomb Avenue
Tonasket, WA 98855
(509) 486-2366

Supporting technical documents for the Final EIS are available for inspection only at the Department of Ecology Spokane office and at the public libraries in Metaline Falls and Newport

**List of Permits/Approvals
Potentially Required
for Proposed Project:**

Washington Department of Ecology

- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
- State Waste Discharge Permit
- Water Quality Standards Modification
- Water Quality Certification (Clean Water Act - 401)
- Dam Safety Permit
- Permit to Appropriate Public Waters
- Changes to Existing Water Rights
- Notice of Construction Approval (Air Quality)
- Air Contaminant Source Operating Permit
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (Air Quality)
- Dangerous Waste Conditional Exemption

Washington Department of Natural Resources

- Waste Rock Management Plan
- Forest Practice Application
- Burning Permit (Fire Protection)
- Easement for Diffuser in River
- Outfall Easement for Effluent Discharge to River
- Reclamation Plan

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Hydraulic Project Approval

Washington Department of Health

- Sewage Disposal Permit
- Public Water Supply Approval

Washington Department of Labor and Industries

- Explosives License
- Safety Regulation Compliance

Washington Department of Community Development

- Historic and Archaeological Review

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Federal Clean Water Act - Section 404 (Dredge and Fill)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan
- Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity
- Review of Section 404 Permit

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Threatened and Endangered Species Consultation

Mine Safety and Health Administration

- Mine Identification Number
- Legal Identity Report
- Miner Training Plan Approval

U.S. Treasury Department (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms)

- Explosives User Permit

Federal Communications Commission

- Radio Authorizations

Pend Oreille County

- Building Permit
- Shoreline Permit
- Lands and Critical Areas Ordinance